WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

VRS in SAIL

*383. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to right-size the workforce of Steel Authority of India through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(b) if so, the response received, so far;

(c) whether Government also propose to reduce the age of superannuation; and

(d) if so, by when this is going to be announced alongwith other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the two voluntary retirement schemes introduced by SAIL in 1998 and 1999, 5,975 and 13,617 employees respectively have been separated. Under the VRS 2001, which is closing on 15.9.2001, 3052 employees have been granted VR upto 31.7.2001.

(c) and (d) Government has received no such proposal from the Board of Directors of SAIL.

Haul of spurious drugs

*384. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases wherein a big haul of spurious drugs has been unearthed during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons apprehended for manufacturing and trading of spurious drugs; and

(c) the special measures taken to curb the spurious drugs trade in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) As per the information given by the State Drug Control Authorities, 17 cases related to spurious drugs have been reported from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and U.P. in last one year (Statement-I) (*See* below) 68 persons have been arrested in this regard since 1.4.2000 (Statement-II) (*See* below).

Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, State Governments have been empowered to enforce quality of drugs including check on manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The said Act was amended in 1982 to provide for specific definition of spurious drugs and severe penalties extending to life imprisonment have been prescribed.

State Governments have been advised from time to time to provide adequate enforcement machinery and drug testing facilities and to keep strict surveillance over the inter-state movement of spurious drugs. Facilities of Central Government testing labs have also been made available to the States for testing of drugs besides financial assistance provided to them to augment and strengthen their testing capabilities.

The State Drugs Controllers have been advised to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:—

(i) Constitution/reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer association should find representation.

(ii) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.

(iii) Training to be provided to selected Officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc. in respect of Spurious/Counterfeit drugs.

(iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drugs samples by establishing own state level drug testing facilities.

(v) State Drugs Control Authorities to be cautious while approving licences for drug products to ensure that "look-alike" products are not encouraged.

(vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(vii) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers.

(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To obtain Cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) Programme.

In addition, the following steps have been taken:—

(i) Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary initiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.

(ii) The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the need to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health & Family Welfare.

(iii) The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS on July 18, 2001 associating members from Industry, Trade, Drugs Regulatory Officials and Public representatives to go into all aspects of the menace of Spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

Statement-I

Number of cases wherein a big Haul of Spurious Drugs has been unearthed during the last one Year

S.No	States	2000-2001	2001-till date
1.	Assam	Nil	Nil
2.	Bihar	Nil	2
3.	Goa	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	Nil	1
5.	Haryana	Nil	Nil
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil
8.	Karnataka	Nil	1
9.	Kerala	Nil	Nil
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
11.	Maharashtra	Nil	2

S.No.	States	2000-2001	2001-till date
12.	Manipur	Nil	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
14.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
15.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
16.	Orissa	Nil	Nil
17.	Punjab	Nil	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	1	2
19.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil
20.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil
21.	Tripura	Nil	Nil
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Nil
23.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
24.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil
25.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil
26.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
27.	Delhi	1	1
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haweli	Nil	Nil
29.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil
30.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
31.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	4
32.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil

Statement-II

Number of persons apprehended for manufacturing and trading of spurious drugs since 1.4.2000

S.No.	States	2000-2001	2001-till date
1.	Assam	Nil	Nil
2.	Bihar	Nil	2
3.	Goa	Nil	Nil
4.	Gujarat	Nil	1
5.	Haryana	Nil	Nil
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	Nil

S.No.	States	2000-2001	2001-till date
8.	Karnataka	Nil	Nil
9.	Kerala	Nil	Nil
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil
11.	Maharashtra	Nil	2
12.	Manipur	Nil	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
14.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil
15.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil
16.	Orissa	Nil	Nil
17.	Punjab	Nil	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	1	5
19.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil
20.	Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil
21.	Tripura	Nil	Nil
22.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Nil
23.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil
24.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil
25.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil
26.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil
27.	Delhi	1	6
28.	Dadar and Nagar Haweli	Nil	Nil
29.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Nil
30.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil
31.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	48
32.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil

Funds for construction of tribal schools in Assam

*385. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for construction of tribal schools in the State of Assam during the last three years; and